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NIO

Office of the Director of Central Intelligence

30 January 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Messrs. Stoertz and [REDACTED]

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SUBJECT : Revised Key Judgments to NIE 11-8-73

1. The revised set of Key Judgments dated 29 January which [REDACTED] left with me on that day reflect an admirable effort to resolve the few issues left outstanding at the USIB discussion of this Estimate. If it is not too late, I have three modest suggestions:

a. On page ii in the Air Force footnote, "likely" sounds grammatically awkward. "Likely" is not a pure or simple synonym for "probably" though it is here being employed as such. I would suggest either substituting "probably" or modifying the language to read "will be likely to have . . ."

b. On page iii in the final sentence of the top paragraph I wonder if the Army and Air Force really mean "but." I suspect their sense would be better conveyed by "and."

c. My only concern of substantive consequence relates to the second paragraph on page iii, where you are attempting to sharpen the distinction Colby and others wanted sharpened. Having heard the USIB discussion I can see what you are doing; but I am not sure the language would be all that clear to a cold reader ignorant of the background behind this prose. I offer for your consideration the thought that it might help to insert the following language in that paragraph after the end of the first sentence, (i.e., after "potential foes").

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These considerations encompass what might be called the "momentum" or "prudential" aspects of Soviet behavior in this sphere. The totality of the Soviet effort, however, clearly involves considerably more than can be readily or satisfactorily explained as merely trying to keep up with the competition.

In the "momentum" and "prudential" area:  
(Then have your four tick marks and carry on the remainder of this text as it stands.)

3. As I have said before this total paper is a first-class effort and the Key Judgments section distills a wealth of complex analysis in a crisp and commendable way.



George A. Carver, Jr.  
Deputy for National Intelligence Officers

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